

**A Study of a
Community College System Structure
for the Delivery of
Trades, Technical and Technological Training and Education
in Nova Scotia**

ISSUES PAPER

**Nova Scotia Department of Vocational
and Technical Training**

**Hon. T. R. B. Donahoe, Q.C.
Minister**

November 1986

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Introduction:

The February 27, 1986, Throne Speech commented on the possible development of a Community College System in Nova Scotia.

"My Government recognizes the importance of trades, technical and technological training to individuals and business in Nova Scotia. My Government, therefore, is closely examining the delivery of this training in the context of the development of a Community College System in Nova Scotia, incorporating the existing trade, technical and vocational schools, into this new system. Issues to be addressed in the development of this system include:

- making the system operational throughout the year;
- making courses of study and training available on a modular basis;
- extending the number of hours the schools and institutes operate each year;
- enhancing cooperative and work experience education and training opportunities;
- developing a tiered approach to training so that the student may move from vocational to technical to university education."

During that Session of the Legislature, Bill No. 85, "An Act Respecting Vocational, Trades, Technical and Technological Training" was debated and received Royal assent. The Act formalizes the specifics of the operation of the Department

of Vocational and Technical Training and includes enabling legislation to create a Community College System in Nova Scotia. The Act reads, in part, as follows:

"5 (1) The Minister, with the approval of the Governor in Council, may establish, name, maintain, conduct and govern community colleges that offer programs of instruction in one or more fields of vocational, trades, technical, technological and general education and training in day or evening courses and for full-time or part-time students.

(2) The Minister, with the approval of the Governor in Council, may provide for the appointment of a board of governors for a community college established pursuant to subsection (1) and may determine the powers and duties of the board of governors.

(3) The Minister, or a board of governors of a community college with the approval of the Minister, may enter into an agreement with an organization representing one or more branches of industry or business or with any professional organization respecting the operation of a community college or courses given at a community college.

(4) The Minister, or a board of governors of a community college with the approval of the Minister, may enter into an agreement with a university or college for the establishment, maintenance and conduct by the university or college, in conjunction with the community college, of programs of instruction leading to certificates or diplomas awarded by the Minister, the community college, the university or the college, or leading to degrees awarded by the University.

(5) The cost of the establishment, maintenance and conduct of a community college shall be payable out of money appropriated by or in accordance with an Act of the Legislature, money received from the Government of Canada for educational purposes, money contributed by organizations that have entered into agreements with the Minister or a board of governors of a community college, fees paid by students and money received from other sources."

In order to provide a structure and format for the public to comment on the matter of a Community College system, this "Issues Paper" has been prepared by the Vocational and Technical Training Community College Study Committee. This Committee will coordinate the work that the Department will carry out in studying the Community College concept.

Definition:

Generally speaking, a community college system is normally defined as a series of post-secondary institutions conducting certificate and diploma programs. A community college curriculum typically offers some or all of the following: vocational, technical and occupational programs; basic upgrading and remedial courses; continuing and part-time education; programs for personal and community enrichment; pre-university and first and second year parallel university courses; and general education.

Issues:

Listed below are some of the broad categories of issues that need to be addressed in carrying out the study:

- (1) students;
- (2) human resources;
- (3) programs;
- (4) governance/administration;
- (5) funding; and
- (6) facilities.

(1) Students:

- (1.1) To whom should a Community College system in Nova Scotia direct its services?
- (1.2) What should the entrance requirements be for Community College programs?
- (1.3) What student services should be provided in a Community College system?
- (1.4) How should a Community College system respond to students with special needs?

(2) Human Resources:

- (2.1) How should staff in a Community College system be organized and represented?
- (2.2) How should staff in a Community College system be certified?
- (2.3) How can personnel within a Community College system be best utilized?
- (2.4) What provisions can be made for professional development in a Community College system?

(3) Programs:

- (3.1) What types of programs should be offered in a Community College system?
- (3.2) To what extent should programs offered at Community Colleges be standardized?

- (3.3) To what extent should programs offered at Community Colleges be specialized?
- (3.4) What types of linkages should exist between and among programs offered at Community Colleges and other educational institutions?
- (3.5) What mechanisms should be used to deliver programs at Community Colleges (modular, continuous intake, experiential, continuing education, part-time, distance education, etc.)?

(4) Governance/Administration:

- (4.1) How much institutional autonomy should be provided in a Community College system?
- (4.2) How would this degree of autonomy affect programming, staffing, external relationships, funding, etc.?

(5) Funding:

- (5.1) How should the Community College system be funded?
- (5.2) How should student aid be organized in the Community College system?

(6) Facilities:

- (6.1) How can the existing facilities, buildings and equipment be utilized most efficiently in a Community College system?

Conclusion:

These six issues and related questions are not all inclusive but represent some of the matters that should be debated to arrive at a possible Community College System for the delivery of trades, technical and technological education and training in Nova Scotia.

Written Submissions:

Please send written submissions to:

The Community College Study Committee
N. S. Department of Vocational and Technical Training
P. O. Box 2086, Station M
Halifax, NS B3J 3B7
Telephone: 424-4167

Submissions should be received by January 12, 1987.

Public Meetings:

Public meetings will be scheduled on the basis of written submissions received. Please notify the Secretary of the Committee of your interest in appearing at a public meeting in your area. A mutually convenient time for each presentation will then be arranged.